

Assembly Bill No. 2868

Passed the Assembly August 14, 2006

Chief Clerk of the Assembly

Passed the Senate August 10, 2006

Secretary of the Senate

This bill was received by the Governor this _____ day
of _____, 2006, at _____ o'clock ____M.

Private Secretary of the Governor

CHAPTER _____

An act to amend Section 2633 of the Business and Professions Code, relating to healing arts.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2868, Bogh. Physical therapists.

Existing law, the Physical Therapy Practice Act, provides for the licensure and regulation of physical therapists by the Physical Therapy Board of California in the Department of Consumer Affairs, and makes a violation of the act's provisions a crime. Existing law prohibits a physical therapist from using the prefix "Dr.," the word "doctor," or any suffix or affix indicating that the person is a doctor or a physician and surgeon.

This bill would authorize a licensed physical therapist holding a doctoral degree in physical therapy or in a related health science, after that term is defined in regulations adopted by the board, to use the term "doctor" and doctoral degree abbreviations, as specified, with the licensee's name if certain requirements are met.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. Section 2633 of the Business and Professions Code is amended to read:

2633. (a) A person holding a license as a physical therapist issued by the board may use the title "physical therapist" or the letters "P.T." or any other words, letters, or figures that indicate that the person using same is a licensed physical therapist. No other person shall be so designated or shall use the term licensed or registered physical therapist, licensed or registered physiotherapist, licensed or registered physical therapy technician, or the letters "L.P.T.," "R.P.T.," or "P.T."

(b) A licensed physical therapist who has received a doctoral degree in physical therapy (DPT) or, after adoption of the regulations described in subdivision (d), a doctoral degree in a related health science may do the following:

(1) In a written communication, use the initials DPT, PhD, or EdD, as applicable, following the licensee's name.

(2) In a written communication, use the title "Doctor" or the abbreviation "Dr." preceding the licensee's name, if the licensee's name is immediately followed by an unabbreviated specification of the applicable doctoral degree held by the licensee.

(3) In a spoken communication while engaged in the practice of physical therapy, use the title "doctor" preceding the person's name, if the speaker specifies that he or she is a physical therapist.

(c) A doctoral degree described in subdivision (b) shall be granted by an institution accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges or by an accrediting agency recognized by the National Commission on Accrediting or the United States Department of Education that the board determines is equivalent to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

(d) The board shall define, by regulation, the doctoral degrees that are in a related health science for purposes of subdivision (b).

Approved _____, 2006

Governor